

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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DEPT PASS U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, EAID, GR, US
SUBJECT: GOG REQUESTS FOR EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) ATHENS 6144, (B) THESSALONIKI 207

1. WHILE I WAS IN MFA THIS MORNING ON OTHER BUSINESS (SEPTTEL) FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS OFFICE. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH PRIME MINISTER IN THESSALONIKI THIS MORNING ABOUT EARTHQUAKE RESEARCH ASSISTANCE (REF A) AND KARAMANLIS HAD DECIDED IT WOULD BE MORE SALABLE DOMESTICALLY IF GOG OBTAINED THIS ASSISTANCE FROM UNESCO THAN FROM U.S., AND HE HAS ARRANGED WITH UNESCO TO PROVIDE IT. THEREFORE, RALLIS ASKED THAT WE CANCEL REQUEST FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE MADE YESTERDAY. GOG, HE SAID, APPRECIATED VERY MUCH OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND AFTER UNESCO STUDY MIGHT HAVE TO APPROACH US AGAIN FOR ASSISTANCE.

2. SEPARATELY, MINISTER FOR NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS, ON BEHALF OF PRIME MINISTER, AGAIN URGED CONSUL GENERAL ZACHARY TO KEEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME USGS SEISMOGRAPHS IN PLACE NEAR EARTHQUAKE EPICENTER (REF B). MARTIS SAID PRIME MINISTER FEELS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THREE SEISMOGRAPHS, NOT TWO AS REQUESTED YESTERDAY, SO THAT GREEK SEISMOLOGICAL SERVICE HAS CONTINUING COVERAGE AT THIS CRITICAL TIME. WHILE GOG CONTINUES TO HOPE WE WILL GIVE THEM THE SEISMOGRAPHS, MARTIS SAID GREEKS WOULD PAY \$3,000 EACH IF NECESSARY.

3. USGS TECHNICIANS CURRENTLY IN THESSALONIKI TOLD ZACHARY THEIR HANDS ARE TIED AND THEY MUST REMOVE INSTRUMENTS BY SATURDAY, JULY 22, UNLESS THEY RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM ROBERT HAMILTON AT U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA, TO LEAVE THEM IN PLACE.

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: GOG IS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ANTI-EARTHQUAKE MEASURES TO DAMP DOWN CONTINUING ANXIETY OF NORTHERN GREEK POPULATION. IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE FOR US TO PULL OUT ALL SEISMOGRAPHS SO CALLOUSLY AT THIS TIME, WHILE KEEPING THEM THERE AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAS REQUESTED WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS IN U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS. I RECOMMEND THAT A WAY BE FOUND BEFORE SATURDAY TO GIVE THESE THREE SEISMOGRAPHS TO GOG, PERHAPS USING DISCRETIONARY DISASTER FUNDS. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE GREEKS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BUY THEM AND SHOULD BE SO INFORMED IMMEDIATELY. THIRD AND LEAST DESIRABLE SOLUTION IF NO DECISION TO GIVE OR SELL TO GOG CAN BE MADE IN NEXT 48 HOURS WOULD BE FOR USGS TO AUTHORIZE TECHNICIANS TO LEAVE SEISMOGRAPHS IN PLACE WHILE FINAL DISPOSITION IS BEING WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER WE ARRANGE IT, THE INSTRUMENTS SHOULD STAY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

MILLS

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NNN

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